WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An optical disk controller for performing signal processing for an optical disk, comprising:

a status generator for generating status reports each representing the operation state of the optical disk controller; and

a status sampling section for sampling the status reports.

2. The optical disk controller of Claim 1, wherein the status sampling section comprises a sampling interval setting portion for setting a status sampling interval.

3. The optical disk controller of Claim 2, wherein the sampling interval setting portion sets the sampling interval according to the rotational speed of the optical disk.

4. The optical disk controller of Claim 3, wherein the sampling interval setting portion determines the rotational speed of the optical disk according to a synchronization period of a signal demodulated from the optical disk.

5. The optical disk controller of Claim 2, further comprising assigning means for allowing the sampling interval setting portion to set the sampling interval according to a command input externally.

6. The optical disk controller of Claim 2, wherein the sampling interval setting portion sets the sampling interval according to an error rate of a signal demodulated from the

optical disk.

7. The optical disk controller of Claim 1, wherein the status sampling section comprises a sampling category storing portion that stores "sampling abort" status indicating that sampling operation should be aborted, and

when the status report generated by the status generator matches with the "sampling abort" status stored in the sampling category storing portion, the sampling is discontinued.

8. The optical disk controller of Claim 1, wherein the status sampling section comprises a sampling category storing portion that stores "forced sampling" status indicating that the status report should be forcibly output even during sampling operation, and

when the status report generated by the status generator matches with the "forced sampling" status stored in the sampling category storing portion, the status is output even during sampling operation.

9. The optical disk controller of Claim 7 or 8, further comprising assigning means for setting sampling category information representing the relationship between a factor in the status report and sampling operation and storing the sampling category information in the sampling category storing portion.

10. The optical disk controller of Claim 9, wherein the status sampling section updates the sampling category infor-

mation stored in the sampling category storing portion according to a signal demodulated from the optical disk.

11. An optical disk device comprising the optical disk controller of Claim 1.